

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /147 W
-----106560 231046Z /17

R 230845Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1876
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAP

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0568

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, PCAT, ASEAN, MY
SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT IN SSOD

REF: STATE 305298

1. DRAWING ON REFTEL GUIDANCE AND TALKING POINTS,
POL SECTION CHIEF CALLED ON MS. TING WEN LIAN,
MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, UN AND COMMON-
WEALTH AFFAIRS, JAN. 20, TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF
CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IN CONTEXT OF FORTH-
COMING UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD),
MS. TING SAID THAT THE GOM HAD "KEEN INTEREST" IN
THE SSOD WHICH IS VIEWS AS AN "IMPORTANT INITIATIVE"
BY THE UN IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD. SHE AGREED THAT
IMPORTANT SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE SUBJECT OF
RESTRAINT ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, NOTING
THAT THE GOM SUPPORTS MEASURES DESIGNED TO LESSEN
WORLD TENSIONS. U.S. INTEREST IN SUCH MEASURES IS
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LAUDABLE. SHE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT MALAYSIAN
POSITIONS ON SSOD HAVE YET TO BE FORMULATED IN
DETAIL. SHE ASSUMES THAT THE FOURTH PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE SESSION SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE JAN . 24
IN NEW YORK WILL SERVE TO IDENTIFY FURTHER ISSUES
FOR THE SSOD. THE GOM ON ITS PART WILL BE ABLE TO
REACT TO THESE IN DETERMINING ITS OWN POSITIONS ON

SPECIFICS. MALAYSIA WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE JAN. 24 SESSION BY ITS RESIDENT UN MISSION BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHO WILL COMPRISE ITS DELEGATION TO THE SSOD.

2. WHILE MALAYSIA WOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE INCLINED TO SUPPORT REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS SINCE SUCH MEASURES WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH "PEACE ZONE" CONCEPTS THE GOM SPONSORS ("ZOPFAN") OR SUPPORTS (SUCH AS THE IOZP), SUCH REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL IDEAS HAD NOT MADE SUCH HEADWAY TO DATE, SHE NOTED. SHE APPEARED UNCERTAIN HOW SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD BE INITIATED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BOTH SHE AND EMBOFF AGREED THAT ASEAN HAD IN ITSELF SERVED TO DAMPEN INTRA-REGIONAL RIVALRY AND ARMS RACES AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

3. THE CONVERSATION ENDED ON THE NOTE THAT WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER CONSULTATION ON THIS AND RELATED SUBJECTS AS PLANNING FOR THE SSOD EVOLVES.

MILLER

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